

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces and supersedes all previous listings.

Cancel claims 1-7.

8. (Currently Amended) A multi fiber optic medical probe, comprising:

at least two optical fibers; and

at least one coreless block having a rectangular cross section to which the optical fibers are coupled adjacent to, separated from and not in a coaxial arrangement with each other, the at least one coreless block comprising side-coupling terminations for the at least two optical fibers and beam shaping apertures for controlling light propagating between the side-coupling terminations and a region adjacent to the probe, wherein the side-coupling terminations are arranged lateral to and not in a coaxial arrangement with each other with respect to an axis of the probe.

9. (Previously Presented) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein each of the side-coupling terminations comprises an angled endface of the at least one coreless block.

10. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 9, wherein the at least one angled endface is formed by polishing.

11. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 9, wherein the at least one angled endface is metal coated.

12. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one coreless block is attached to ends of the optical fibers.

13. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one coreless block is fused to ends of the optical fibers.

Cancel claims 14-33.

34. (Currently Amended) A multi fiber optic medical probe, comprising:
at least one single mode optical fiber;
at least one multimode optical fiber; and
at least one coreless block having a rectangular cross section to which the single mode optical fiber and the multimode optical fiber are coupled, the at least one coreless block providing side-coupling terminations for the single mode optical fiber and the multimode optical fiber, wherein the side-coupling terminations are arranged lateral to, not in a coaxial arrangement with and separated from each other with respect to an axis of the probe and single mode optical fiber and the multimode optical fiber are

coupled to the at least one coreless block adjacent to and not in a coaxial arrangement with each other and extend adjacent to each other.

35. (Previously Presented) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the at least one coreless block comprises an angled endface.

36. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 35, wherein the at least one angled endface is formed by polishing.

37. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 36, wherein the at least one angled endface is coated.

38. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the at least one coreless block is attached to ends of the optical fibers.

39. (Original) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the at least one coreless block is fused to ends of the optical fibers.

40. (Canceled).

Cancel claims 41-53.

54. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the coreless block has a square cross section.

55. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the optical probe comprises a single coreless block.

56. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the optical probe comprises at least two coreless blocks.

57. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the side-firing terminations are longitudinally offset from one another.

58. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 8, wherein the optical fibers terminate in a flat cleave end.

59. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the coreless block has a square cross section.

60. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the optical probe comprises a single coreless block.

61. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the optical probe comprises at least two coreless blocks.

62. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the side-firing terminations are longitudinally offset from one another.

63. (New) A fiber optic medical probe as claimed in claim 34, wherein the optical fibers terminate in a flat cleave end.